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how ; that every tree must be known separately, and that until this is done practical operations must fail ; and that the acquisition of this necessary knowledge, is as slow as the growth of the trees themselves. It is urgently necessary that such centers of investigation should be established in numbers. Scarcely anywhere is there an institution that combines so many advantages for a successful organization of this kind as here. Our Club has this year undertaken to arouse interest in the subject by providing a course of ten field lessons, conducted by competent instructors, and open to all our members, without charge.

Did time permit, I should be glad to speak on this occasion of the special needs of our Club. In a general way we should get back to the work for which we were originally organized — the study of our local flora, at present construed as that within a 100-mile radius of this city. To do it properly provides ample work for years to come. It is a work of important scientific value, yet includes popular features calculated to interest every member. All that is needed is a leader, and this is the point of difficulty. He must be a capable botanist, and he must give practically his whole time to the work: This means that he must be compensated, and this is possible only through an endowment fund, or through a very large membership list, for both of which we earnestly hope. If 200 others of the 10,000 or more persons of this section whose interest in plants entitles them to become members of the Club would do so, there would be ample provision for the undertaking of this work.

## DOCTOR TORREY AND DOWNINGIA

BY EDWARD L. GREENE

In the course of my work, as the earliest pioneer of the movement in this country for priority in nomenclature, I met with no other synonym at that time usurping the place of a generic name which I was more reluctant to indicate as a mere synonym than Doctor Torrey's *Downingia*. It is a group of elegantly beautiful little plants ; such a genus as might most aptly commemorate

in botany the name and services of a man so rarely accomplished in dendrology and the noble art of landscape-gardening as Andrew Jackson Downing.

Moreover, Doctor Torrey's occasion for thus honoring Downing in the proposed name for this particular genus was an interesting one, and particularly instructive in its bearing upon the principles of botanical nomenclature; all the more interesting since it reveals him as acting firmly, vigorously and without hesitation upon what he regarded as an intolerably vicious innovation in nomenclature, and this at a time which antedates all legislation, so-called, on the nomenclature of botany.

The genus which Doctor Torrey wished should bear the name *Downingia* had, to his knowledge, been twice named already. At the moment of his writing it was currently received as the genus *Clintonia*. He knew that, because of the existence of that name as applied to another genus of earlier date, the present *Clintonia*, as a name, was null and void. He was also aware that an eminent botanist in Europe, while attempting to displace the homonymous *Clintonia*, had made matters worse rather than better by dedicating this also to De Witt Clinton under the name *Wittia*; so that by this curious arrangement Clinton would have commemoration in botany by two genera, *Clintonia* Raf., and *Wittia* Kunth. Doctor Torrey, therefore, governed by that mere good sense which had precluded from the minds of all great botanists before him for two thousand years the very idea of dedicating two genera to one man, proposed the new name *Downingia* for Lindley's *Clintonia* and Kunth's *Wittia* in the same confidence with which he would have assigned the new name to an entirely new and nameless generic type. In the Pacific Railway Report, already cited by me in various places, his comment on the action is this: "It would be inadmissible to bestow two genera on the same person."

At the time of his writing Doctor Torrey must have been unaware that *Downingia*, even when newly published, was at once a synonym by virtue of Rafinesque's *Boelia* and *Gynampsis*.\* But the moment has seemed opportune for bringing to the notice

\* See *Pittonia*, 2 : 124.

of those enrolled for work under the patronage of Doctor Torrey's name, the example of his own way of dealing with such names as *Wittia*, *Porteranthus* and *Neowashingtonia*.

NATIONAL MUSEUM,  
WASHINGTON.

## TWO NEW DEWBERRIES OF THE HISPIDUS GROUP

BY W. H. BLANCHARD

The first is a dewberry and belongs to the *Hispidus* group, but it is very distinct from anything yet described. I propose to name it

### ***Rubus jacens* sp. nov.**

Small-stemmed glabrous-leaved plants with five thin, narrow leaflets, slender prickles, glanded hairs, late flowers, nearly prostrate and tipping freely.

*New canes.* — Stems decumbent at first, eventually nearly prostrate, 2 to 3.5 feet long, slender, terete, red above, green below, generally unbranched, without pubescence, tipping early in September. Primary prickles slender, slanting backward, set at random, about 20 to the inch of stem; secondary prickles smaller and weaker, quite as numerous, shading to tapering hairs tipped with small glands. Leaves delicate, thin, 5-foliolate, dark yellow-green above, light-green below, glabrous. Leaflets narrowly oval, long-pointed, wedge-shaped at the base, finely and somewhat doubly serrate (not serrate-dentate), the middle one about 2 inches long, the others smaller. Petiole and petiolules slender, grooved above, with slender, hooked prickles and a few glanded hairs; the petiolule of the middle leaflet 0.5 inch long, the side ones short, and the basal leaflets sessile.

*Old canes.* — Stems prostrate, prickles and glanded hairs considerably impaired, no old leaves remaining. Second year's growth entirely of leafy, erect branches or stemlets tipped with inflorescence, one from the axil of each old leaf. Axis of stemlets zigzag, terete, slender, faintly pubescent, with a few weak prickles and glandular hairs. Leaves 3-foliolate, pointed, cuneate at the base, sharply and in part doubly serrate, color and texture like those of new canes. Inflorescence a short raceme 1.5 inches long, prickles few and weak, glanded hairs few, pubescence faint, pedicels slender, 8 to 12, set at nearly a right angle to the axis, subtended by small bracts or often large ones, passing to small